

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 61st LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

00:00:54 **Call to Order: CHAIRMAN BOB LAKE**, on January 22, 200  
at 9:05 A.M., in Room 472 Capitol.

#### **ROLL CALL**

##### **Members Present:**

Rep. Bob Lake, Chairman (R)  
Rep. Jill Cohenour, Vice Chairman (D)  
Rep. Janna Taylor, Vice Chairman (R)  
Rep. Dick Barrett (D)  
Rep. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Rep. Edward B. Butcher (R)  
Rep. Wanda Grinde (D)  
Rep. Robin Hamilton (D)  
Rep. Brian Hoven (R)  
Rep. Mike Jopek (D)  
Rep. Dave McAlpin (D)  
Rep. Mike Miller (R)  
Rep. Art Noonan (D)  
Rep. JP Pomnichowski (D)  
Rep. Lee Randall (R)  
Rep. J. David Roundstone (D)  
Rep. Jon Sonju (R)  
Rep. Wayne Stahl (R)  
Rep. Chas Vincent (R)  
Rep. Brady Wiseman (D)

**Members Excused:** None.

**Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Jeff Martin, Legislative Branch  
Jennifer O'Loughlin, Committee Secretary

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 249, 1/21/2009; HB 259,  
1/21/2009

Executive Action: None

**HEARING ON HB 259**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:43 REP. SCOTT MENDENHALL (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 259, Income tax credit for volunteer firefighters.

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:04:40 David Kneebone, Volunteer Firefighter  
00:11:00 Leonard Lundby, Chairman, Montana Fire Alliance

**Opponents' Testimony:** None

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:15:16 Chairman Lake  
00:15:22 Rep. Mendenhall  
00:15:35 Rep. Wiseman  
00:15:45 Rep. Mendenhall

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:16:03 Rep. Mendenhall  
00:17:50 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

**HEARING ON HB 249**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:18:02 REP. WAYNE STAHL (R), HD 35, opened the hearing on HB 249, Tax perpetual conservation easements - publicly owned are taxable.

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah15a01)

[EXHIBIT](#)(tah15a02)

00:23:19 Rep. Stahl  
00:24:09 Rep. Cohenour  
00:24:34 Chairman Lake  
00:24:44 Rep. Stahl  
00:26:31 Jeff Martin

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:27:46 Nancy Schlepp, Montana Farm Bureau

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:30:00 Andrew Dana, Bozeman attorney, conservation easement law

[EXHIBIT \(tah15a03\)](#)

00:39:48 Jay Erickson, Montana Land Reliance

[EXHIBIT \(tah15a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT \(tah15a05\)](#)

00:45:59 Glenn Marx, Montana Association of Land Trusts

00:51:15 John MacDonald, City of Missoula

[EXHIBIT \(tah15a06\)](#)

00:52:01 Mike Harris, Open Lands Coordinator, Gallatin County

[EXHIBIT \(tah15a07\)](#) Harris testimony

00:55:07 Paul Sihler, Administrator, Field Services Division, Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP)

[EXHIBIT \(tah15a08\)](#)

00:58:12 Carl Seilstad, First Vice President, Montana Association of Counties

00:59:06 Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon

**Informational Testimony:**

00:59:29 Angus MacIver, Legislative Audit Division

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:01:20 Rep. Cohenour  
01:01:56 Mr. MacIver  
01:03:52 Rep. Cohenour  
01:04:28 Mr. Marx  
01:04:35 Chairman Lake  
01:04:40 Rep. Butcher  
01:06:05 Mr. Dana  
01:06:45 Rep. Sonju left the room.  
01:07:38 Rep. Butcher  
01:08:51 Mr. Dana  
01:09:37 Rep. Noonan  
01:11:13 Rep. Stahl

01:13:50 Rep. Jopek  
01:14:46 Rep. Stahl  
01:15:34 Rep. Jopek  
01:16:23 Rep. Stahl  
01:16:51 Rep. Wiseman  
01:17:44 Ms. Schlepp  
01:18:26 Rep. Wiseman  
01:18:39 Ms. Schlepp  
01:19:16 Rep. Wiseman  
01:19:36 Ms. Schlepp  
01:20:27 Rep. Wiseman  
01:21:20 Rep. Stahl  
01:21:37 Rep. Wiseman  
01:21:57 Rep. Stahl  
01:23:55 Rep. Wiseman  
01:24:05 Rep. Stahl  
01:24:32 Chairman Lake  
01:24:43 Rep. Butcher  
01:25:20 Rep. Stahl  
01:25:25 Chairman Lake  
01:25:37 Rep. Butcher  
01:27:34 Rep. Stahl  
01:27:57 Chairman Lake  
01:28:13 Rep. Butcher  
01:28:44 Chairman Lake  
01:28:50 Rep. Cohenour  
01:30:08 Mr. Marx  
01:30:39 Rep. Cohenour  
01:30:43 Chairman Lake  
01:30:55 Mr. Marx  
01:31:19 Rep. Jopek  
01:32:07 Mr. Dana  
01:32:29 Rep. Jopek  
01:32:52 Mr. Dana

**Closing by Sponsor:**

01:33:22 Rep. Stahl  
  
01:40:52 Chairman Lake closed the hearing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

01:41:38 Adjournment: 10:45 A.M.

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JENNIFER O'LOUGHLIN, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT ([tah15aad.pdf](#))**